

EARLIER, SHORTLY AFTER SCHOOL...

SIGH...

WHAT THE...?

BEST PART ABOUT DRIVING TO SCHOOL: NOT HAVING TO RUSH TO MY LOCKER SO I CAN CATCH A BUS AFTERWARDS.

I SEE YOU'RE STILL BEING STUBBORN.

HELLO, PRINCIPAL.

YOU WERE WARNED YESTERDAY ABOUT VIOLATING THE DRESS CODE, MS POMPOMS. I'M AFRAID I WILL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A DETENTION FOR THIS.

I FIGURED AS MUCH. AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW?

THIS IS SERIOUS, YOUNG LADY. THIS REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE ROUTINE CAN ONLY END BADLY FOR YOU.

I HAVE A CAUSE!

THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT. IF YOU KEEP UP THIS HOOLIGANISM, ALL YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT IS GREASED UP HAIR, A MOTORCYCLE GANG, AND A LEATHER JACKET WITH AN EMBLEM ON THE BACK THAT LOOKS COOL...

...BUT COMPLETELY CONTRADICTS YOUR BELIEFS WITHOUT YOUR EVEN REALIZING IT BECAUSE YOU'LL BE TOO BUSY BEING A HOOLIGAN TO COMPREHEND ITS ACTUAL MEANING!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

AND THAT'S ANOTHER DEMERIT FOR SWEARING. YOU'LL NEVER BE A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY AT THIS RATE.



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME, ED! I'VE ALREADY GOT MY TEAM OUT HERE AND EVERYTHING!

I'M SORRY, CAROL. IT'S JUST NOT A GOOD STORY FOR US TO DO.

GOOD STORY?! MULTIPLE WITNESSES SAW AN EVIL MONKEY CREATURE RUNNING THROUGH THE HALLWAYS OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL! I KNOW THERE'S A LACK OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE, BUT--

A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN MOPERVILLE, WHERE THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER IS SOLD IN NEIGHBORING TOWNS WITH ALL THE REGARD OF A TABLOID.

WE'VE GOT A REPUTATION TO PROTECT! WE CAN ONLY REPORT ON CONFIRMED MONSTERS, LIKE MEGA HOGS, OR BIGFOOT!

BIGFOOT ISN'T... ED, I GREW UP IN MOPERVILLE. WEIRD STUFF HAPPENS HERE, AND--

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DEVOTE ANY OF TONIGHT'S NEWS TO EVIL MONKEY SHENANIGANS UNLESS YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING MORE DOWN TO EARTH TO FOCUS YOUR REPORT ON.

WELL, UH... THE SCHOOL DID RECENTLY GET NEW UNIFORMS...

WHICH YOU KNOW BECAUSE WE BRIEFLY MENTIONED THAT ON LAST WEEK'S NEWS. DO YOU HAVE A NEW WORM TO PUT ON THAT HOOK?

UH...

YES. YES I DO.

IS IT BIG AND JUICY?



AFTER SOME PREPARATION...



...I'M STANDING HERE OUTSIDE OF MOPERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL IN MOPERVILLE WITH TWO OF ITS STUDENTS, SUSAN POMPOMS, AND CATALINA BOBCAT. BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF A FEMINIST CLUB OF WHICH SUSAN POMPOMS IS PRESIDENT.

SUSAN, AM I TO UNDERSTAND YOU ARE WEARING A BOY'S UNIFORM?



YES. THE NEW DRESS CODE REQUIRES WOMEN TO WEAR VESTS AND SKIRTS. WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE UNFAIR AND SEXIST. I AM WEARING THIS OUT OF PROTEST, AND AM BEING PUNISHED FOR IT.

AND DO YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE DEFYING THE DRESS CODE IN SPITE OF BEING PUNISHED?

YES.

AND YOU'RE NOT A MASOCHIST.



UM, NO. I JUST FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT IT.

WHAT OTHER OBJECTIONS DO EITHER OF YOU HAVE TO THE UNIFORMS?

OTHER OBJECTIONS?



BEYOND YOUR VIEW THAT THEY'RE SEXIST. ANYTHING?

WELL, THEY WERE ASSIGNED ABRUPTLY, AND I GUESS IT RESULTS IN MORE LAUNDRY...

AND YOU HAVE TO WEAR WHITE SHIRTS. THOSE STAIN EASY...



THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR TIME. I MIGHT BE WEARING A SKIRT MYSELF, BUT I WOULDN'T LIKE BEING TOLD I HAD TO WEAR ONE, EITHER. BEST OF LUCK.

THANK YOU.

YEAH.



AND... CUT.

I MEAN IT, TOO. THOUGH I DO ACTUALLY HAVE TO WEAR A SKIRT TO BOOST RATINGS.

IT WORKS.



THANK YOU  
FOR INCLUDING  
ME. THAT WAS  
AWESOME.

YOU DESERVED  
TO BE THERE.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO NOTICED  
THEM, AND I WAS ON THE VERGE  
OF GIVING UP YESTERDAY BEFORE  
YOU TALKED ME OUT OF IT.

I DID?

YEAH,  
YOU DID.

STILL, I'M... SORRY  
ABOUT THAT OTHER  
THING I SAID.

DON'T BE.  
I JUST WISH  
THINGS WERE  
DIFFERENT.

DIFFERENT  
HOW?

I'M SORRY, I  
SHOULDN'T HAVE  
SAID THAT...

CATALINA, I LIKE YOU, AND I WANT US TO  
STAY FRIENDS. MAYBE WE COULD DO MORE  
TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, EVEN IF  
IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW...

...AS FRIENDS.

SO, WE COULD,  
LIKE, GO SEE A MOVIE  
FRIDAY NIGHT?

UH... YEAH,  
OK. THAT COULD  
BE FUN.



???????, LATER THAT EVENING...

...BUT DRESS CODE MALCONTENT IS BUT ONE OF MANY ISSUES MOPERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL HAS RECENTLY FACED.

NOT TOO LONG AGO, THERE WERE REPORTS OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING SOME SORT OF A GOO-BASED MONSTROSITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL.

SHORTLY AFTER THAT, ONE OF THE HALLWAYS CONNECTING TO THE GYMNASIUM HAD TO UNDERGO SEVERE REPAIRS AFTER MYSTERIOUS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE FLOOR, THE ORIGINS OF WHICH REMAIN MYSTERIOUS.

AND JUST TODAY, ANIMAL CONTROL WAS CALLED ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN EVIL MONKEY.

COULD THIS BE THE WORK OF AN EVIL MONKEY TRAINER, DETERMINED TO TERRORIZE OUR CHILDREN?

NO ONE WAS HURT AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE CREATURE REMAINS SPARSE, BUT SEVERAL WITNESSES ATTEST TO IT HAVING BEEN IN THE SCHOOL.

MOST LIKELY NOT, BUT WE'VE BEEN ITCHIN' TO USE THIS GRAPHIC.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS WERE UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT AS OF THE TIME OF--\*

mute

=CLICK=

I BELIEVE I SHALL HAVE A LIMP TOMORROW...



ALRIGHT, BEDTIME CHECK-  
LIST! BRUSHED TEETH?

WASHED FACE AND  
CHANGED CLOTHES?

CHECK!

CHECK!

MORPHED INTO A WOMAN TO  
KEEP MAGIC ENERGY IN CHECK?

HM. I SEEM  
TO HAVE FORGOTTEN  
SOMETHING.

OH, COME ON. NOT  
EVEN A SMIRK?

I FEEL LIKE CRAP FOR  
MAKING FUN OF YOU  
EARLIER, OK? I'M SORRY.

SORRY?  
WHAT ARE YOU  
SORRY FOR?

I WAS TREATING THIS  
LIKE A JOKE WHEN IT  
TURNED OUT TO BE A  
HUGE INCONVENIENCE,  
AND I'M SORRY.

WELL, I APPRECIATE THE  
THOUGHT, BUT IF ANYBODY  
GETS TO MAKE FUN OF  
ME FOR THIS, IT'S YOU.

WELL, YEAH,  
BUT THAT  
DOESN'T MEAN  
THAT I *SHOULD*.

I... KINDA WISH YOU *WOULD*, ACTUALLY. I  
WAS KIND OF COUNTING ON YOUR JOKES  
MAKING THIS FEEL LIKE LESS LIKE A BIG DEAL

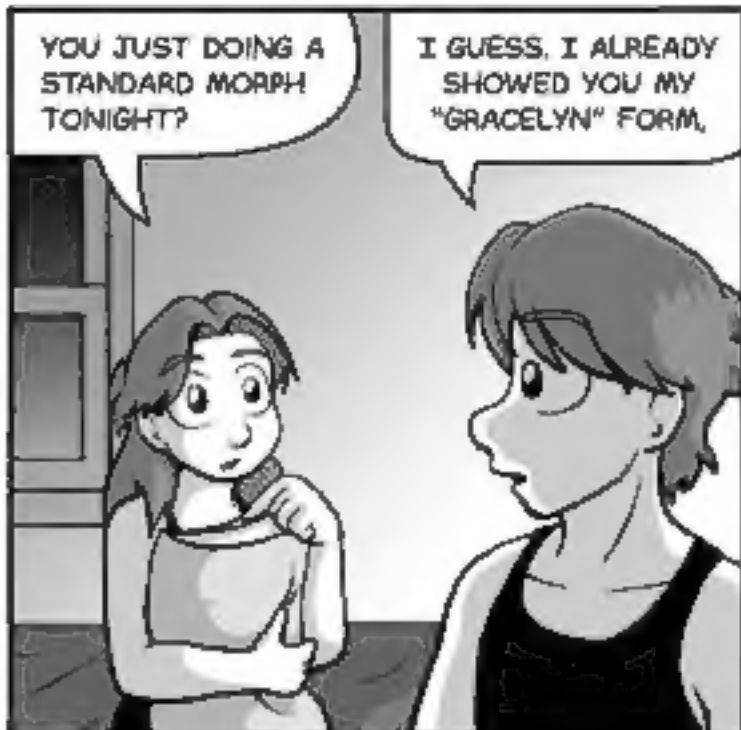
REALLY?

YEAH.

WELL,  
UH...

...WE SHOULD  
CALL YOU SLEEPING  
BEAUTY AND FIND A  
PRINCE TO WAKE YOU  
IN THE MORNING?

THAT'S  
THE  
SPIRIT!







MY CLOTHES CHANGED?!

AND YOU LOOK ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE HER! LOOK!

ALMOST?! WE COULD STAR IN A DOUBLEMINT GUM COMMERCIAL!

I DON'T THINK SO. YOUR FACE IS SORTA OFF, AND YOU'RE TALLER THAN HER.

I AM? BUT SHE LOOKED TALLER THAN SUSAN...

YEAH, BUT SHE WAS ALSO WEARING HIGH HEELS.



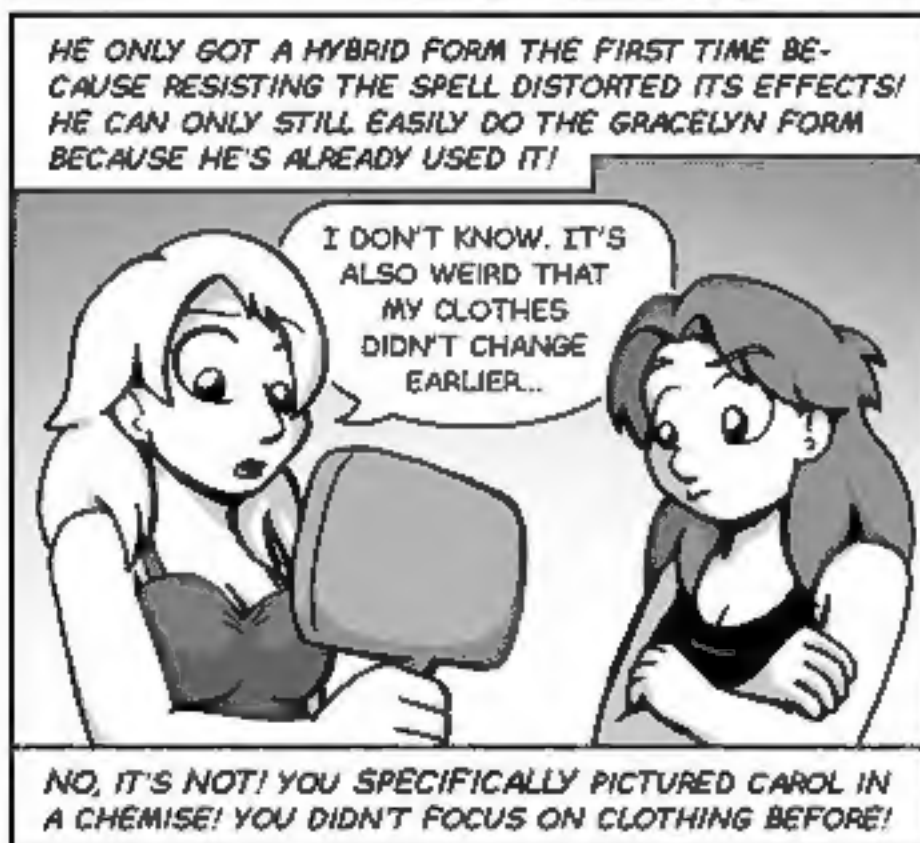
I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT... HOW I LOOK MUST BE BASED ON HOW I PICTURED HER, NOT HOW SHE ACTUALLY LOOKS!

YOU PICTURED HER IN A NIGHTIE?



~~SIGH~~ YES, I PICTURED HER SLEEPING IN ONE. WELL, ME AS HER, BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT. I PICTURED IT BEING MUCH LIGHTER AND PINKER, THOUGH. I GUESS THE SPELL HAS LIMITS?

OK, BUT WHY AREN'T YOU A GIRL ELLIOT-NEWS LADY HYBRID?



HE ONLY GOT A HYBRID FORM THE FIRST TIME BECAUSE RESISTING THE SPELL DISTORTED ITS EFFECTS! HE CAN ONLY STILL EASILY DO THE GRACELYN FORM BECAUSE HE'S ALREADY USED IT!

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S ALSO WEIRD THAT MY CLOTHES DIDN'T CHANGE EARLIER...

NO, IT'S NOT! YOU SPECIFICALLY PICTURED CAROL IN A CHEMISE! YOU DIDN'T FOCUS ON CLOTHING BEFORE!



ARGH! I HATE WATCHING A MOVIE WHERE THE CHARACTERS ARE TOTALLY CLUELESS!

THAT JUST MAKES IT WORSE!

THIS ISN'T A MOVIE. THIS IS REAL LIFE.

I REALLY HOPE MY CLOTHES WILL CHANGE BACK TO NORMAL WITH THE REST OF ME... DO YOU THINK I SHOULD MORPH INTO A DIFFERENT FORM BEFORE SLEEPING?

NAH. YOU ONLY KINDA LOOK LIKE HER, AND YOU COULD WIND UP IN A "DON'T THINK ABOUT ELEPHANTS" SORTA LOOP.

NOW I'M REALLY CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF NEW MAGIC I'VE GOT. I'VE GOTTA HAVE SOMETHING NEW BY NOW, RIGHT?

MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A NIGHTIE BEAM.

HA HA! YEAH! PYEW, PYEW! INSTANT LINGERIE PARTY!

HA HA HA!

TAKE THAT, TONY! PYEW!

HA HA!

WAIT... WOULD HE STILL BE A GUY AFTER THAT?

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED BETTER THAN THAT...

LATER THAT NIGHT A CHEAP MOTEL.

I SPECIFICALLY TOLD  
YOU NOT TO GET INTO  
ANY FIGHTS!

HISS!  
HISS HISS!

I CARE NOT  
ABOUT THROWN  
BOXES!

I SUPPOSE IT WAS OPTIMISTIC OF ME TO  
ASSUME YOU HAD BEEN HIT BY A CAR  
WHEN I HAD TO RE-SUMMON YOU

DID YOU AT LEAST ASCERTAIN THE  
NATURE OF HIS CURSE SO THAT I MAY  
KNOW WHAT MONSTROSITY I FACE?

HISSSSSS

HISS HISS  
HISSSSSS HISS  
HISS... HISS.



A  
GIRL?

HE WAS...  
TURNED INTO  
A GIRL?

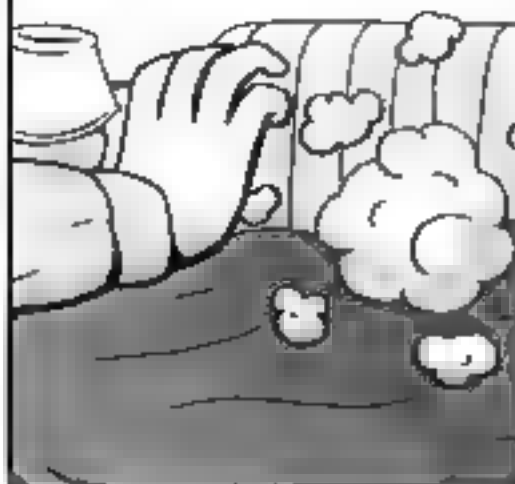
HISS

WHY WOULD  
ANYBODY DO THAT?!

HISS  
HISS HISS  
HISS

DISMISSED!

POOF








WEDNESDAY MORNING, BEFORE CLASS



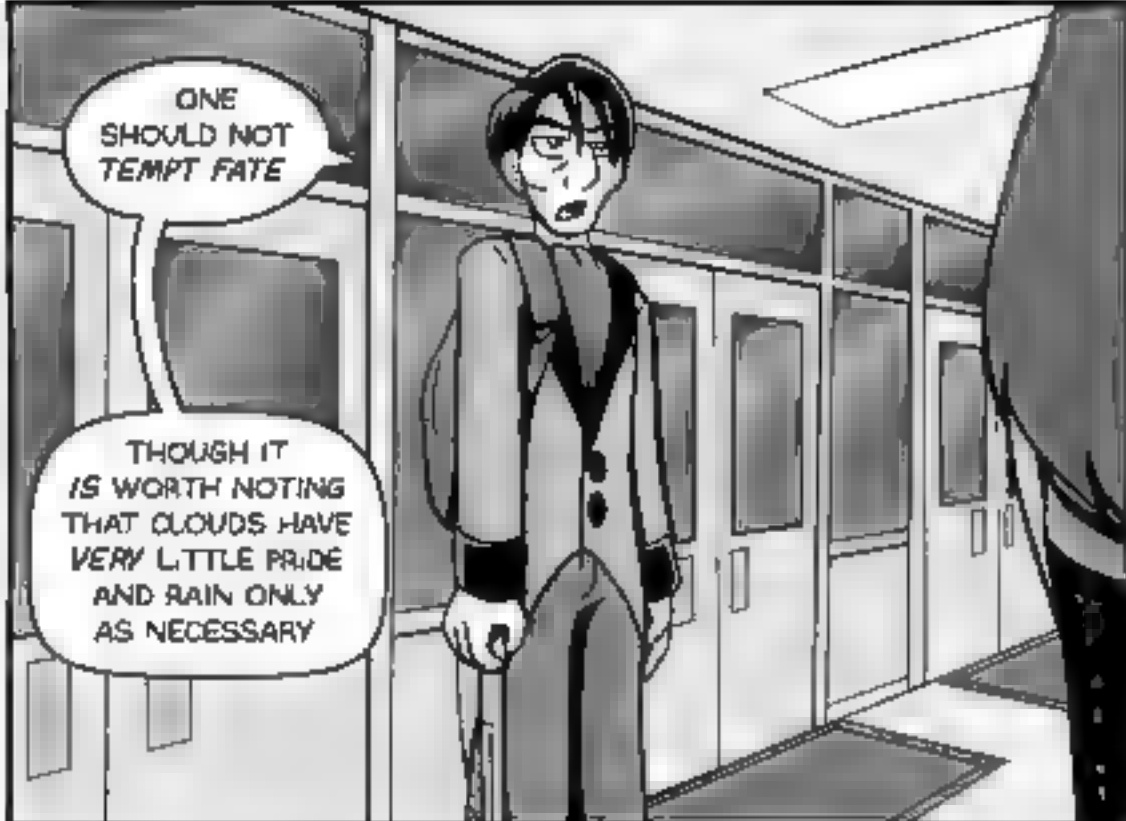
DAMMIT, WEDNESDAY,  
STOP BEING SO DARK  
AND FOREBODING!



YAWN! IT'S  
HARD ENOUGH  
WAKING UP EARLY  
FOR CLASSES.

DON'T TAUNT THE  
CLOUDS, ELLEN. I THINK  
THEY WANT TO RAIN.

VERY ASTUTE,  
MS. SCIURIDAE...



ONE  
SHOULD NOT  
TEMPT FATE

THOUGH IT  
IS WORTH NOTING  
THAT CLOUDS HAVE  
VERY LITTLE PRIDE  
AND RAIN ONLY  
AS NECESSARY



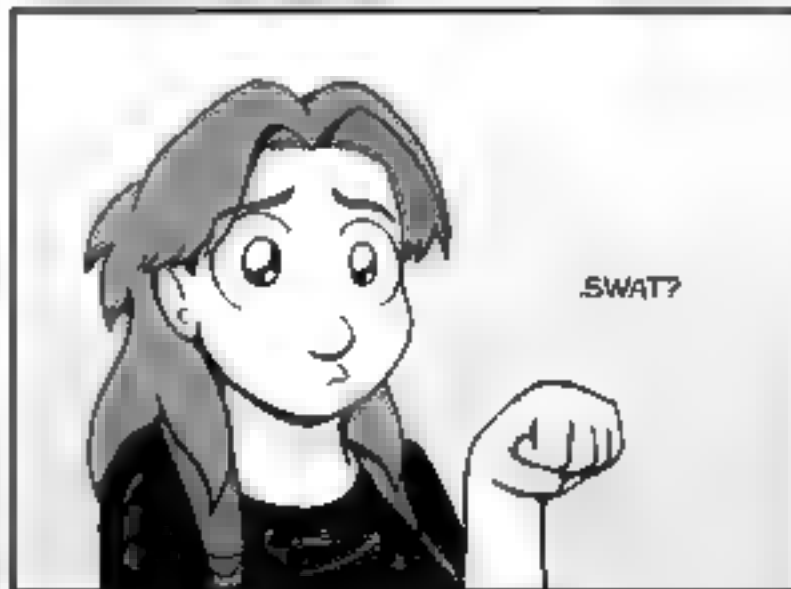
E-EH-UGH...

DID SOMETHING  
HAPPEN TO YOUR LEG,  
MR. RAVEN?





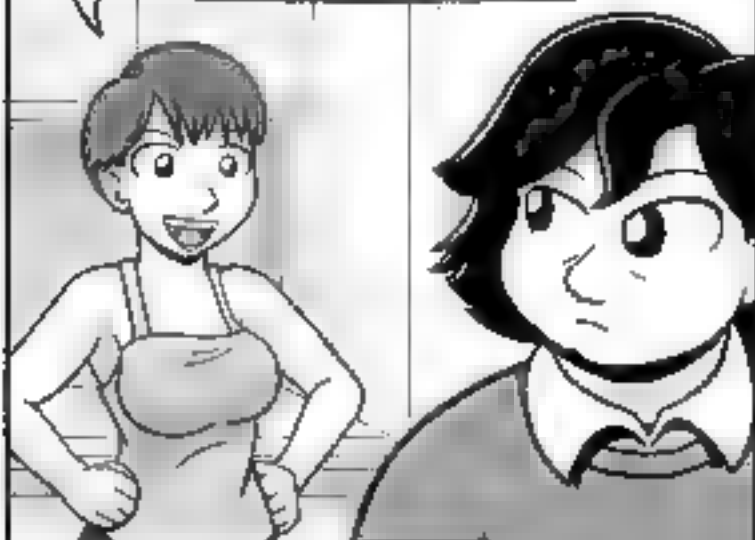








«HELLO. MOTHER! I GOT A MAKE-OVER TODAY *JUST THE WAY I WANTED IT!* WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT *THAT?*»



\*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE

«WHILE I ADMIT I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE THE FASHION YOU'VE CHOSEN I BELIEVE YOU ARE AT AN AGE WHERE IF YOU WANT TO PRESENT YOURSELF AS SUCH, IT *IS YOUR CHOICE*»



«I AM MORE TROUBLED THAT YOU SEEM TO BE TREATING THIS AS AN ACT OF *DEFIANCE*»

«WHAT? NO. NO. I. *JUST SOUND THAT WAY WHEN I'M EXCITED!*»

«EXCITED ABOUT MY NEW LOOK AND... *DINNER! SMELLS GREAT!*»



OKAY, SO MY *BIG ACT OF DEFIANCE* TURNED INTO THE REALIZATION THAT I COULD'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH THIS FRESHMAN YEAR WITH ONLY A *SMALL AMOUNT OF DIS-APPROVAL* FROM MY MOM.



..*BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHEN I DID IT SO IT STILL COUNTS AS **STANDING UP FOR MYSELF!***

SO, IF I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY YOUR MOTHER'S DISAPPROVAL DOES INCREASE WITH THE SEXINESS OF YOUR OUTFITS. BUT YOU MISCALCULATED THE RATE OF DISAPPROVAL?



UH, THAT THAT'S ONE WAY OF GLASSES?

I'M LEARNING! AND HOW DO THE HAIRCUT AND BOOTS CONTRIBUTE TO SEXY DEFIANCE?



WELL, AH, NOT REALLY. I'VE WANTED SHORT HAIR FOR YEARS, BUT MY MOM ALWAYS SAID THAT WAS FOR GIRLS WHO ARE ALREADY MARRIED.

THE BOOTS, WELL...



AW SCREW IT ONE LESS SECRET I SOME TIMES WISH I COULD CHANGE MY HEIGHT AND AFTER GAINING A FOOT OR HOWEVER MUCH IT WAS DURING GRACE'S PARTY--

THE HAIR ADDED A FEW FEET



--I FELT LIKE GETTING A BOOST I MEAN, THEY'RE CHEAPO BOOTS. BUT THEY ADD HEIGHT AND WERE MADE FOR STOMPIN'!



SO... HAIR OR SIZE?

WHAT?

YOUR NEW SPELL! BASED ON MY UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH MAGIC AND YOUR EFFORTS TO GET MORE SPELLS..



I'M GUESSING YOU LEARNED A NEW SPELL LAST NIGHT THAT HAS TO DO WITH EITHER YOUR HAIR OR YOUR HEIGHT



ACTUALLY, I GOT TWO NEW SPELLS LAST NIGHT..

OOH! DID YOU GET BOTH?



JH NO I MEAN, ONE OF THEM MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO BOTH OF THOSE THINGS EVENTUALLY, BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S JUST..

JUST WHAT?



HAIR IT'S A DISGUISE SPELL THAT'S CURRENTLY LIMITED TO HAIR. I CAN CHANGE ITS LENGTH, COLOR, STYLE ETCETERA INSTANTLY AND FOR FREE WITH MAGIC.



THAT..

THAT'S AWESOME!



HOW CAN YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT?! THAT'S LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY AND GETTING THE CHECK FROM HUGH JACKMAN WHILE HE SINGS ABOUT HOW AWESOME YOU ARE!



I KNOW IT'S JUST...

...NOT ONLY HAD I JUST SPENT MONEY ON A HAIRCUT BUT IT'S ANOTHER HIDING SPELL!



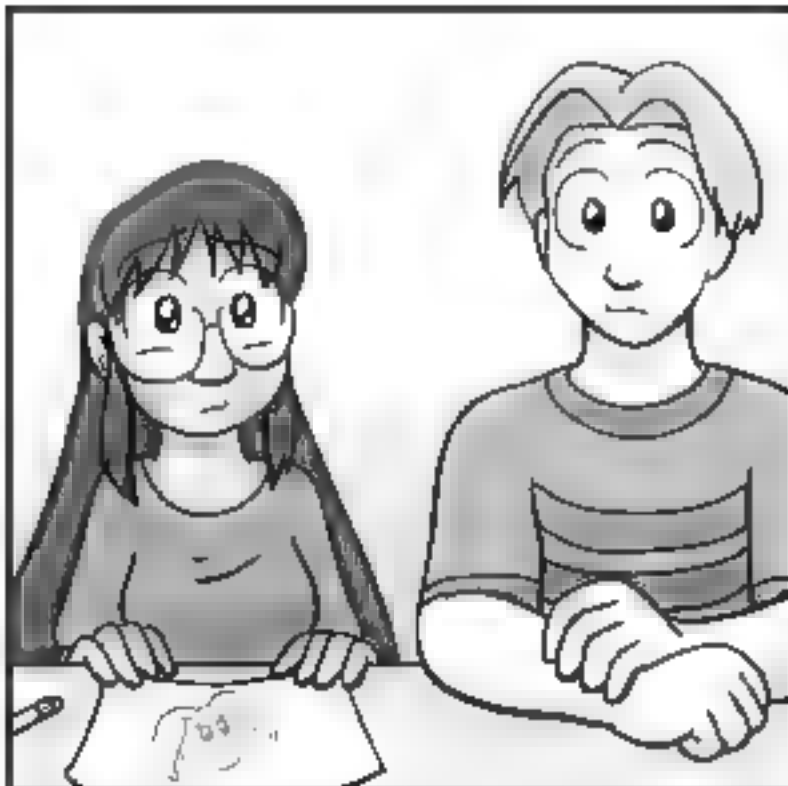
IT'S AWESOME AND I'M LUCKY TO HAVE IT BUT ITS TIMING IS JUST HORRIBLE



SO... YOU COULD USE IT TO GROW BACK YOUR PONYTAIL?







COME ON, JUSTIN.  
WE NEED TO GET  
TO CLASS.

NANASE



LATER



SMACK!



GRACE?!  
YOU--YOU  
HIT ME?!

I'M SORRY! I WANTED TO  
EMPHASIZE HOW MUCH OF  
A DUMMY YOU WERE BEING  
AND IT GOT OUT OF HAND!



OH, YOU CAN'T HEAR ME? I'M SORRY I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW I WAS BETRAYED, BANISHED FROM MY HOME UNIVERSE AND STUCK ON A SPIRITUAL PLANE WITH ONLY IMMORTALS AND MONSTERS TO KEEP ME COMPANY UNTIL I CAN SOMEHOW GET YOUR GIRLFRIEND TO ZAP HER BROTHER WHILE IN MY PRESENCE!



FEH.  
GIRLFRIEND.

YOU WOULD  
SO BE A  
MAN IN MY  
UNIVERSE.



THIS IS POINTLESS. AMPLIFYING THEIR EMOTIONS OR ABILITIES WON'T DO ANY GOOD. ELLIOT'S MILES AWAY, AND NONE OF THIS WILL HELP ME FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET AROUND THE IMMORTALS WHO GUARD HIM.

SCREW THIS. I'M  
OUT OF HERE



YOU WILL STAY.

HOLY--  
CHAOS?!



YOU LOOK FOCUSED.

GO TO ELLEN.  
NOW. DO NOT LEAVE  
HER SIDE.



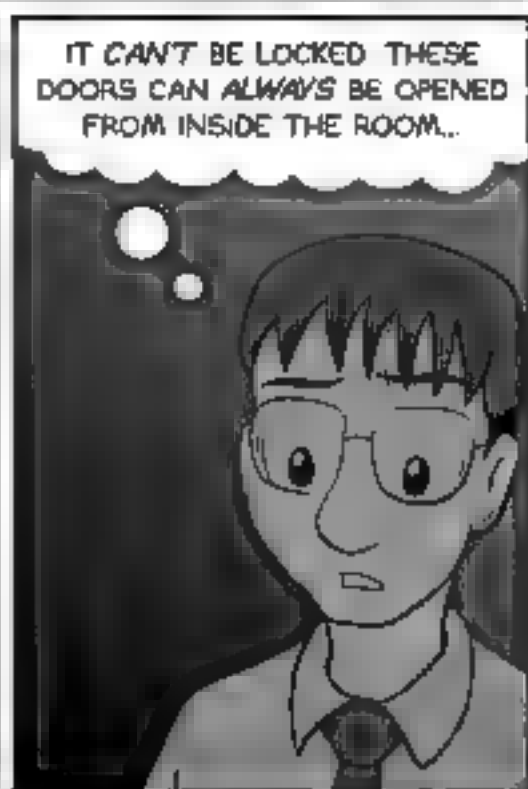
AND IF  
I DON'T?

SHE WILL DIE.

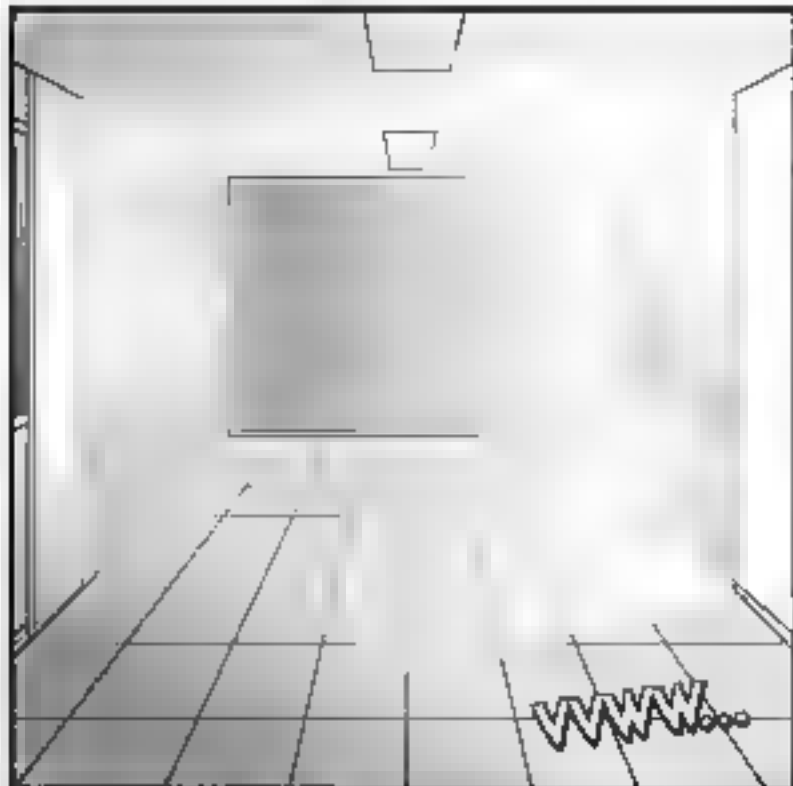
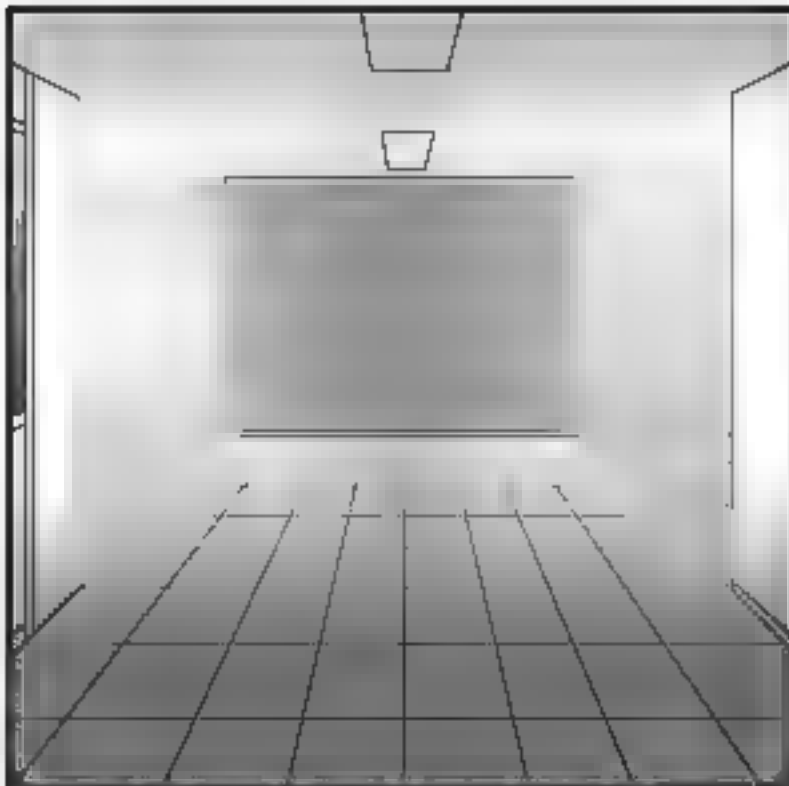


**ZMN**









I ASSUME THESE BARRIERS ARE YOURS.



STANDARD LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE.

IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT THEY DO NOT SEEM TO DETER YOU. BUT THAT STILL LEAVES US WITH TWO OPTIONS.



ONE, YOU RESTORE POWER, UNBLOCK COMMUNICATIONS AND SURRENDER.

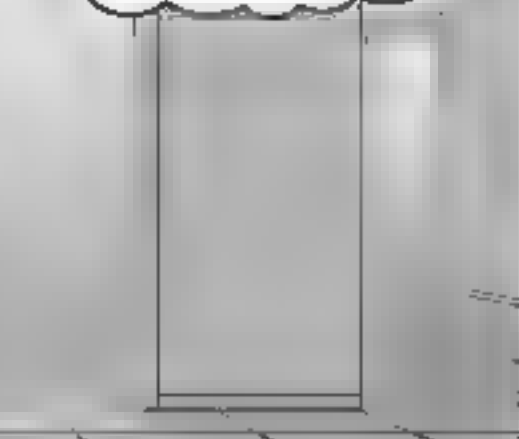
TWO. YOU DIE



COME ON. WORK YOU STUPID CELL PHONE! DAMMIT. IF ONLY I'D BEEN TO MY UNCLE'S OFFICE BEFORE...!

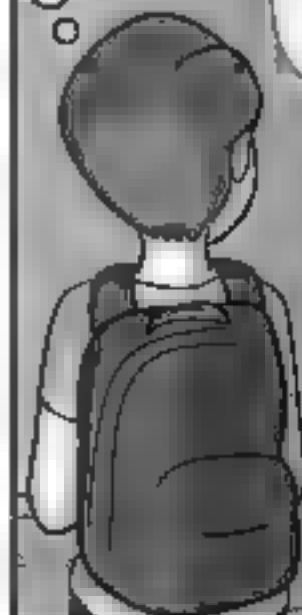


IT'S WAY TOO QUIET.. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE TELL ME THESE FORCE FIELDS JUST MAKE IT HARD TO HEAR THROUGH THE DOORS...

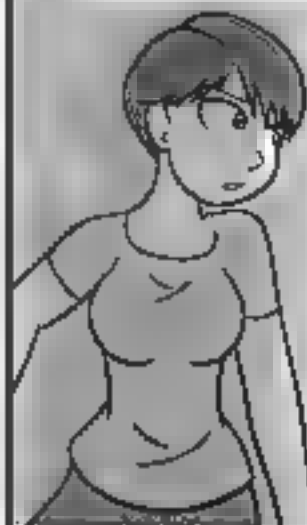


..WAIT..

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND I'M HERE ABOUT A MONSTER



THERE ARE MANY UNUSUAL BEINGS WITHIN THIS SCHOOL. BUT NONE AMONG THEM ARE MONSTERS. EXCEPT PERHAPS. FOR THE MAN WHO NOW STANDS BEFORE ME.



..MR. RAVEN?

I AM NOT A MONSTER, BUT MY MISTAKES HAVE CREATED MANY CENTURIES AGO. I WAS A WIZARD'S APPRENTICE I CREATED A DIAMOND THAT WAS MEANT TO LIFT CURSES. IN THAT IT WORKED, BUT IT ALSO CREATED A COPIES OF THE CURSED IN THEIR CURSED FORMS THAT WERE CAPABLE OF SPREADING THEIR CURSES.

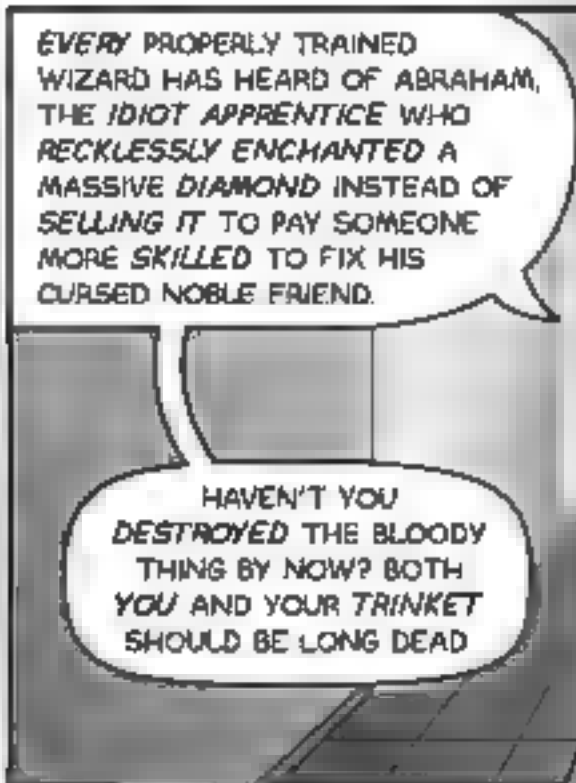


OH MY GOD



THAT WAS YOU?

YOU... YOU'VE HEARD OF ME?



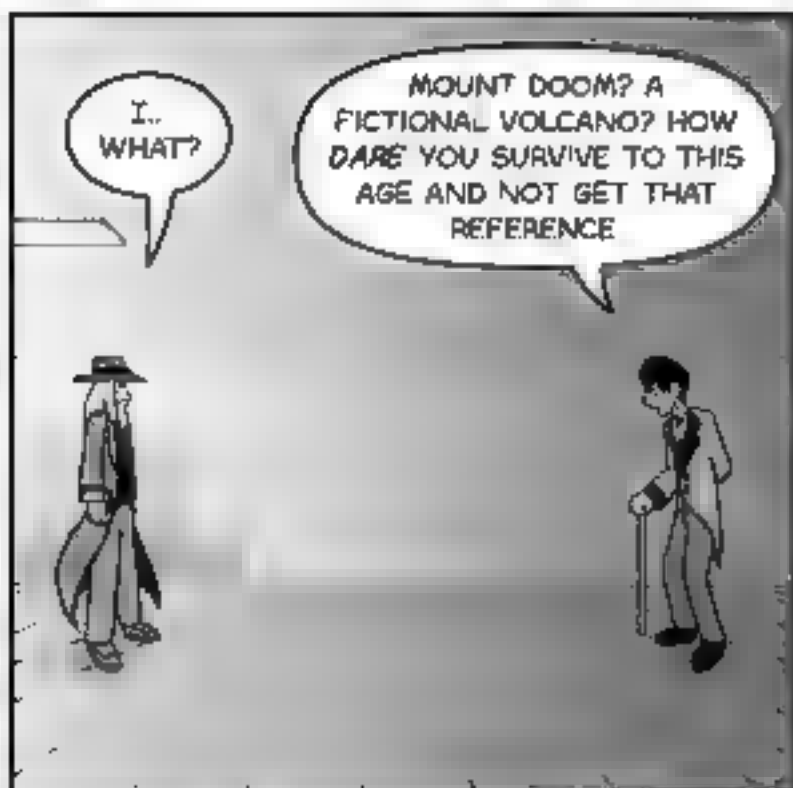
EVERY PROPERLY TRAINED WIZARD HAS HEARD OF ABRAHAM, THE IDIOT APPRENTICE WHO RECKLESSLY ENCHANTED A MASSIVE DIAMOND INSTEAD OF SELLING IT TO PAY SOMEONE MORE SKILLED TO FIX HIS CURSED NOBLE FRIEND.

HAVEN'T YOU DESTROYED THE BLOODY THING BY NOW? BOTH YOU AND YOUR TRINKET SHOULD BE LONG DEAD



THE DIAMOND HAS PROVEN IMPOSSIBLE TO DESTROY AND ATTEMPTING TO HIDE IT HAS FAILED. I SUSPECT IT HAS A WILL OF ITS OWN. SOMEHOW FINDING ITS WAY TO CURSED BEINGS.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MOUNT DOOM? I'M SURE WE COULD RUSTLE UP SOME SACRIFICIAL HOBBITS



I... WHAT?

MOUNT DOOM? A FICTIONAL VOLCANO? HOW DARE YOU SURVIVE TO THIS AGE AND NOT GET THAT REFERENCE



...I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED A VOLCANO...

BUT I HAVE NOT LIVED ALL THIS TIME. I HAVE LAIN DORMANT IN STONE...



...RISING ONLY TO KILL THE ABOMINATIONS CREATED BY THE DIAMOND.



...YOU KILL ANYONE WHO IS CREATED BY THE DIAMOND?

I HAVE SWORN TO DO SO.



TELL ME... BEYOND  
BEING DIAMOND-BORN,  
WHAT WERE THESE  
"MONSTERS" GUILTY OF?



THEY'RE MONSTERS.  
ABOMINATIONS.

NO OTHER  
REASON IS  
NEEDED.



..YOU WANT TO KILL  
AN ABOMINATION?



I AM THE  
BASTARD SON  
OF A HUMAN AND  
AN IMMORTAL!



IF YOU WANT SO  
BADLY TO KILL AN  
ABOMINATION...



...TRY AND KILL ME!



YOU YOU'RE THE ONE  
I SENSED YESTERDAY!  
YOU'RE AN ELF!

BUT... IF THAT'S  
TRUE, IF YOU ARE  
PART IMMORTAL...



YOU CAN'T  
FIGHT ME! NOT  
DIRECTLY!



MY CAREER CHOICES ARE LIMITED I HAVE BEEN SHAMEFULLY FORBIDDEN TO SERVE IN ANY MILITARY

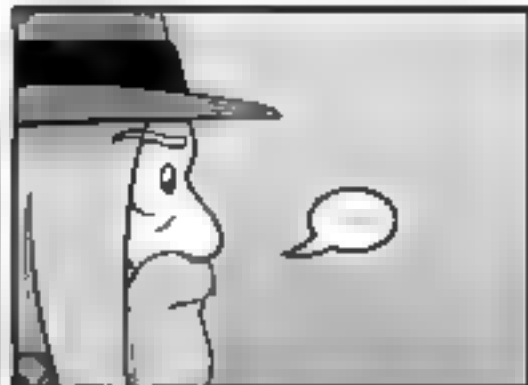


I CAN ACT DIRECTLY IF THE SITUATION INVOLVES MAGIC OR IS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO MYSELF OR OTHERS.

YOU ARE A HOMICIDAL WIZARD INVADING A PUBLIC SCHOOL



NO ONE WILL CARE IF I KILL YOU.



FINAL WARNING. SURRENDER, OR DIE.

I CANNOT I HAVE SWORN AN OATH--

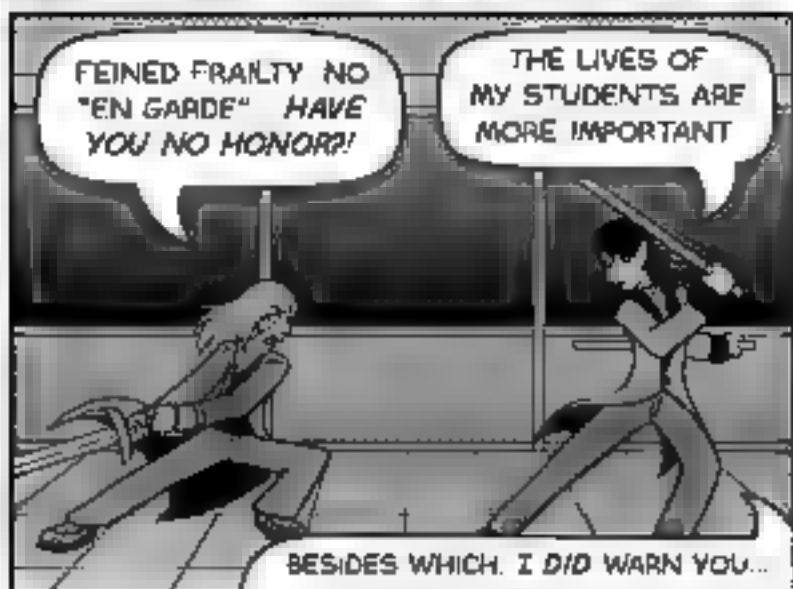


TO--



**Slice!**











SHIELD!



KIAI!

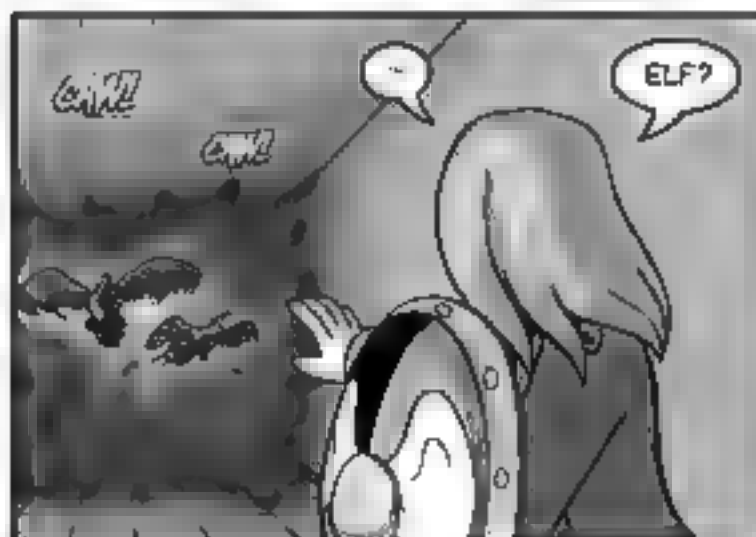
CAN-BSH!



GIVE IT UP, ELF!



I CAN KEEP  
YOUR EXPLODING  
CROWS AT BAY  
LONGER THAN  
YOU CAN KEEP  
SUMMONING  
THEM!



ELF?



Y  
A  
A  
A  
H!

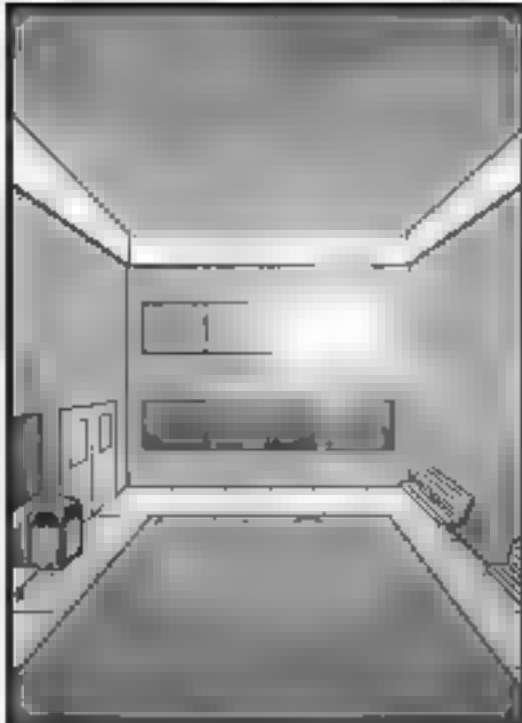


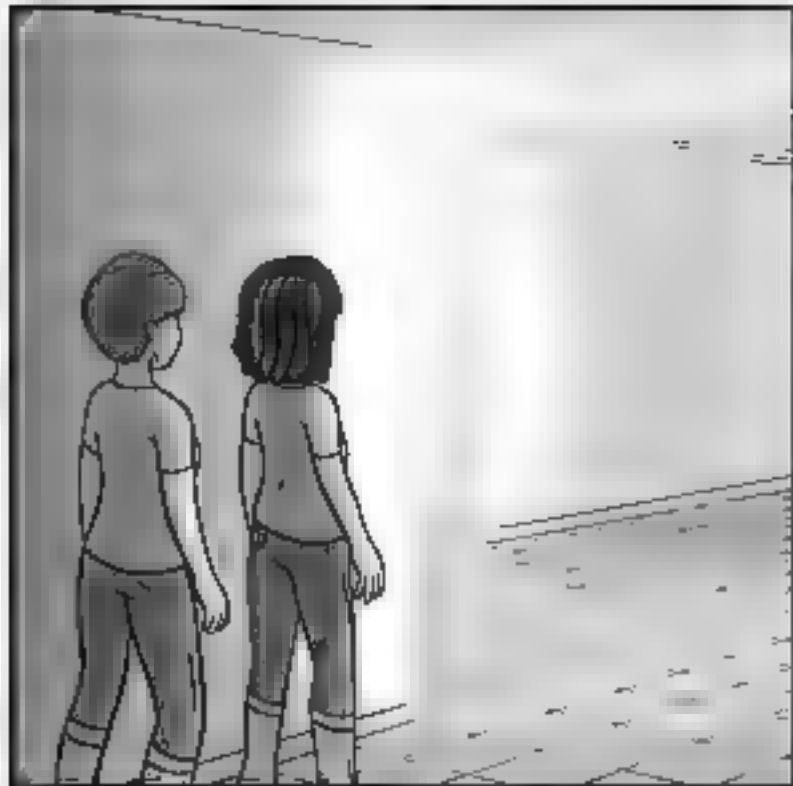
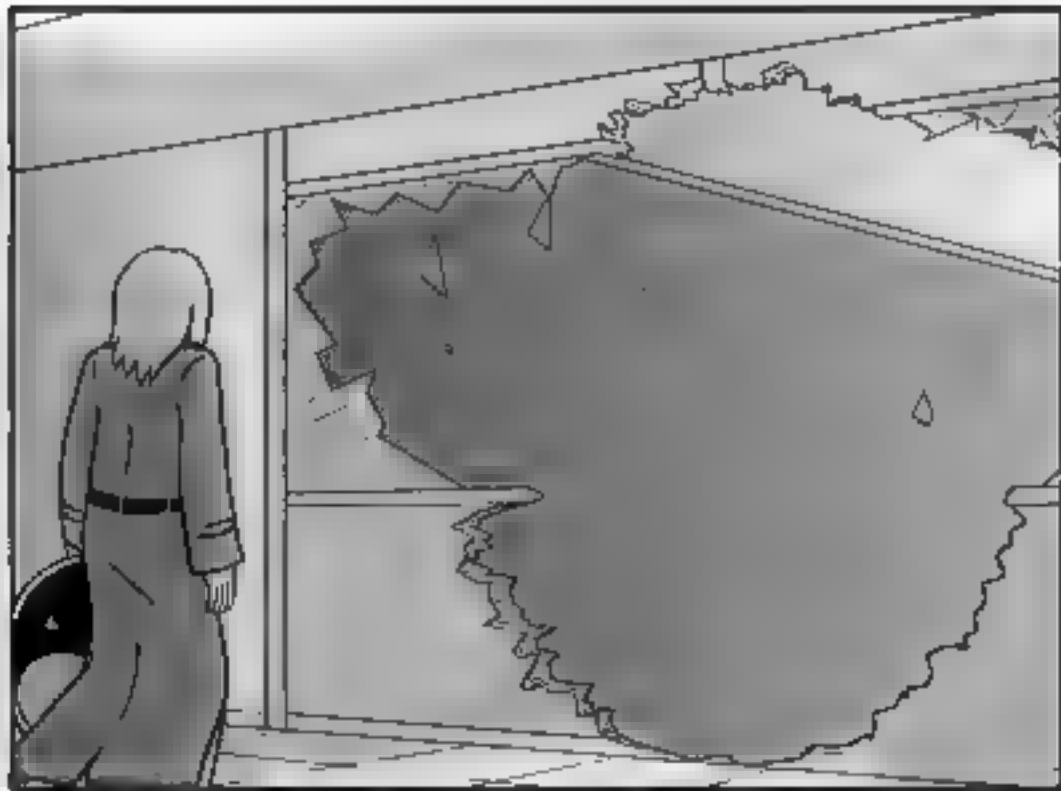
WSSH!

TAK











WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL IS THIS?!

WHO ARE YOU?!



I AM NANASE'S URGE TO KILL



KILL HIM. DISTRACT HIM, WHATEVER!

JUST KEEP HIM BACK THERE FOX!



ELLEN, GET BACK IN YOUR SEAT!

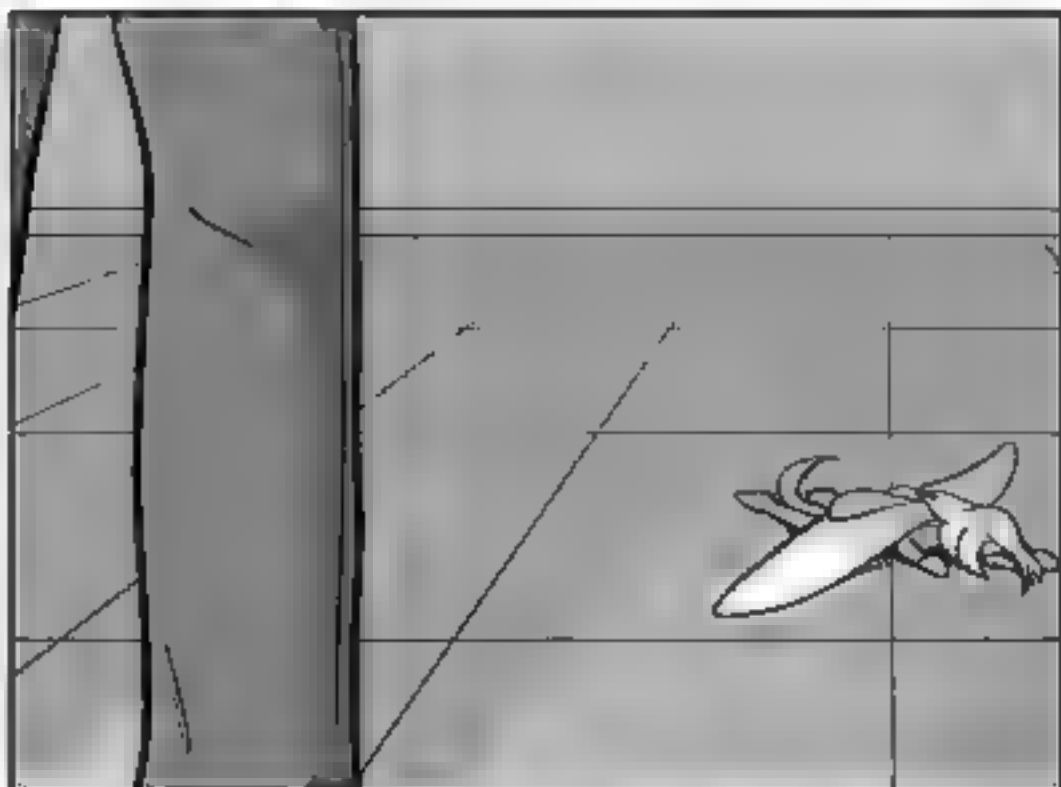
I'M JUST TAKING A LOOK OUTSIDE.

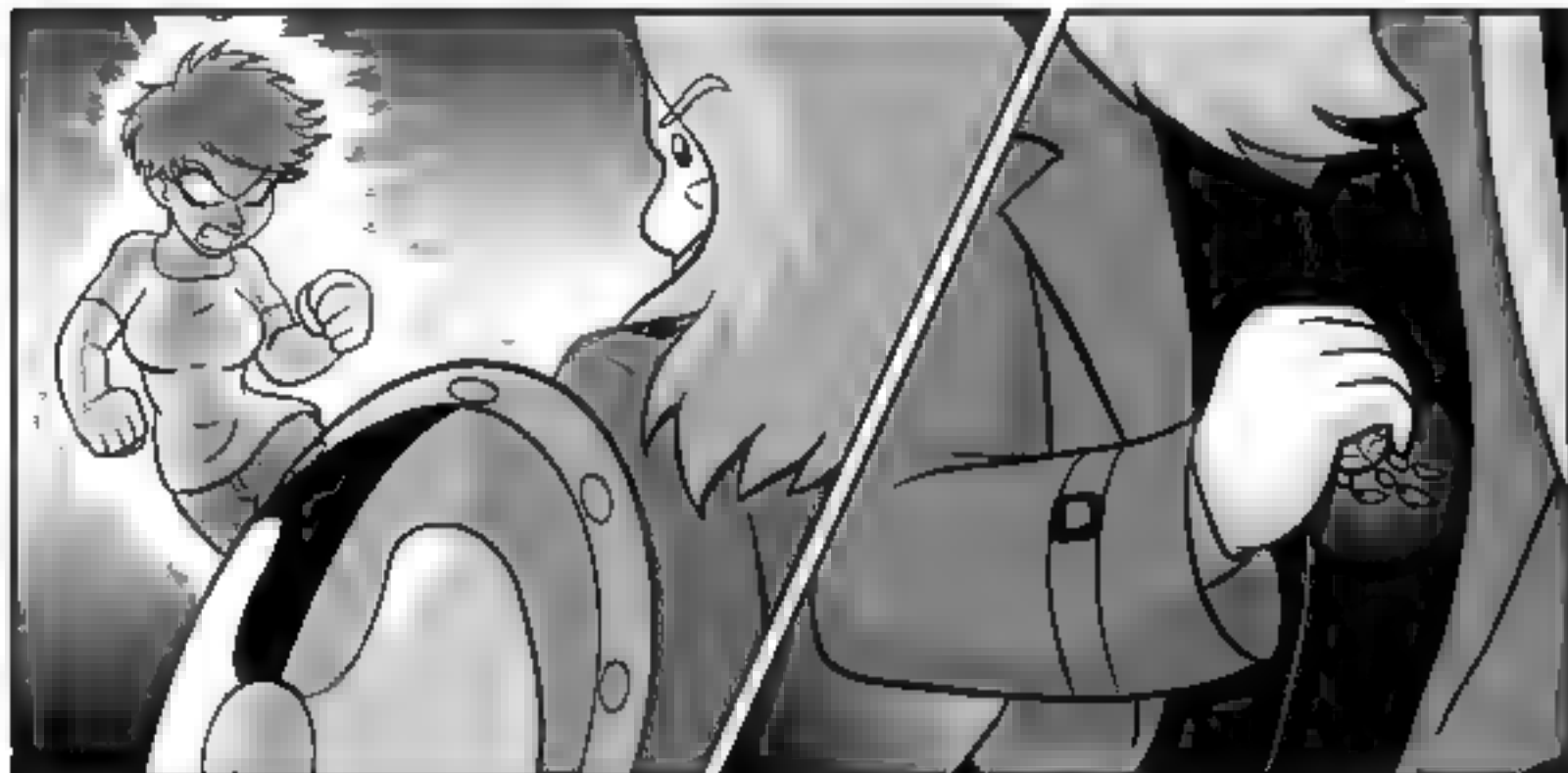
ELLEN, NO! IT'S DANGEROUS TO WANDER THE HALLS DURING A POWER OUTAGE. I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THE BUILDING SHOOK A MOMENT AGO AND BESIDES WHICH, THE DOOR IS...

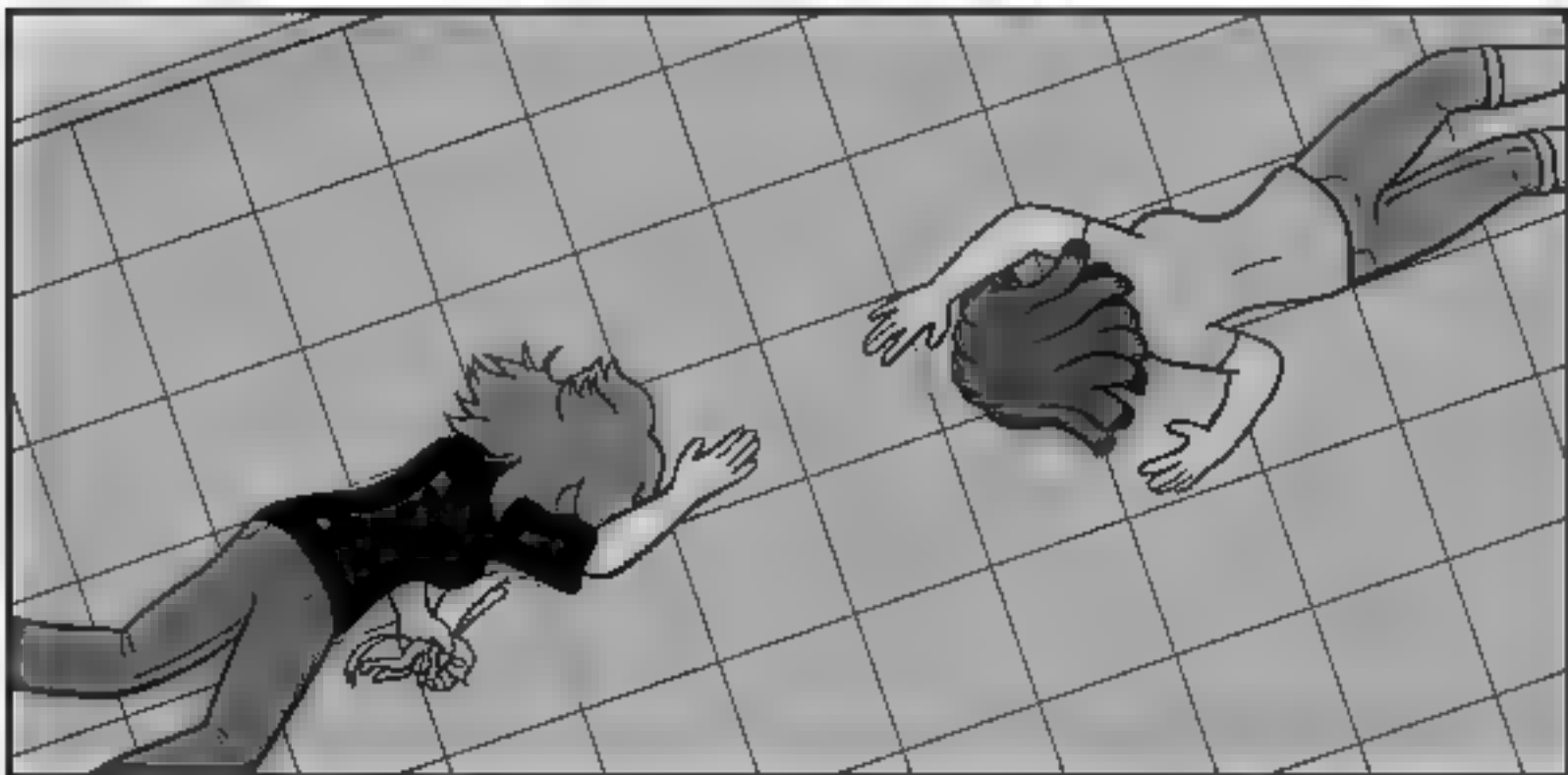
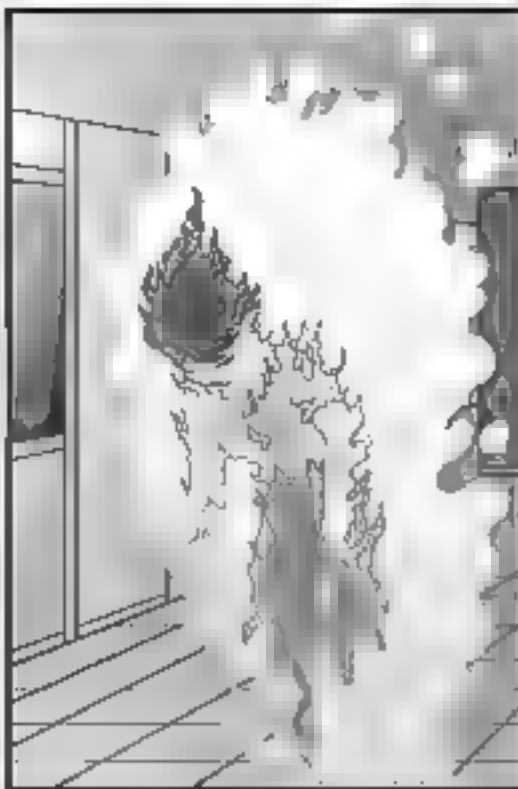


LOCKED?

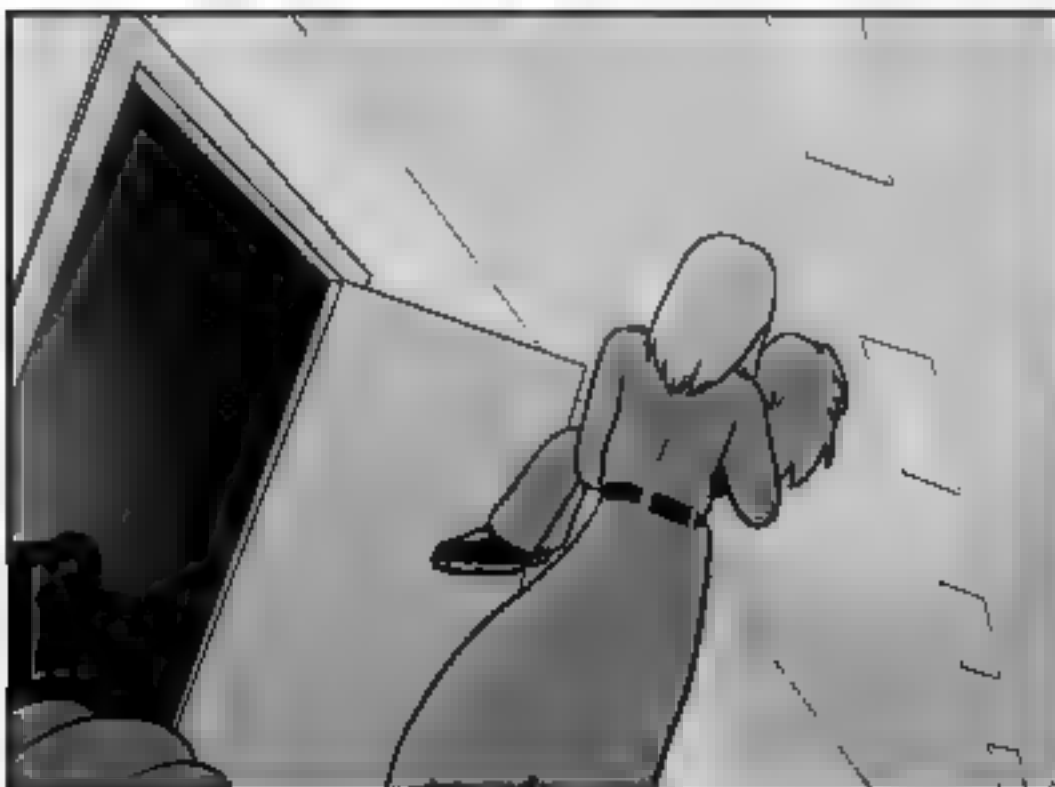
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON OUT--

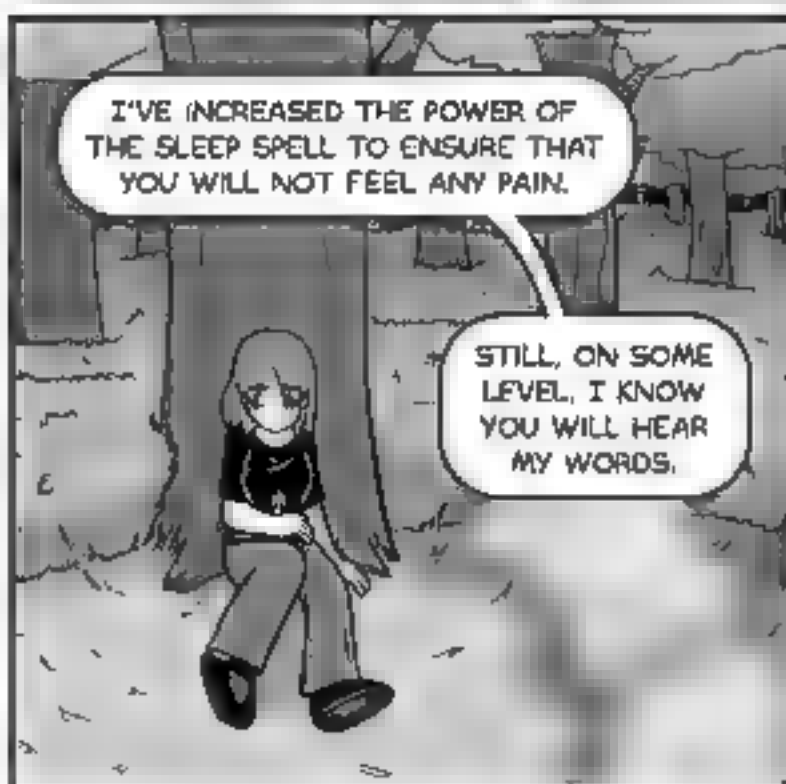
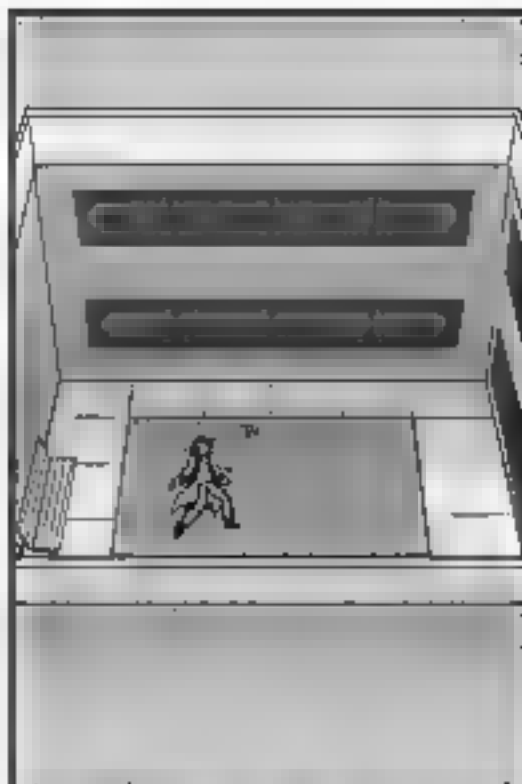












LONG AGO, I WAS A WIZARD'S APPRENTICE  
IT WAS A HAPPY TIME AND I WAS DOING QUITE  
WELL WITH MY TRAINING WHEN A WEREWOLF  
SUDDENLY ATTACKED AND KILLED MY MASTER

AMPLIFY

I BURNED MY  
MASTER'S BODY  
TO PREVENT HIM  
FROM COMING  
BACK AS A  
WEREWOLF BUT  
THAT WAS NOT  
THE END OF IT

AMPLIFY.

THE WEREWOLF  
WAS STILL OUT  
THERE, AND A  
BRAVE NOBLE

AMPLIFY, DAMMIT!

GUILTY IS AT THE FRONT OF HIS MIND AND  
I STILL CAN'T OVERWHELM HIM! HE DOESN'T  
EVEN KNOW I'M HERE AND HE'S RESISTING ME!

DAMMIT, CHAOS,  
YOU KNEW THIS  
WOULD HAPPEN!

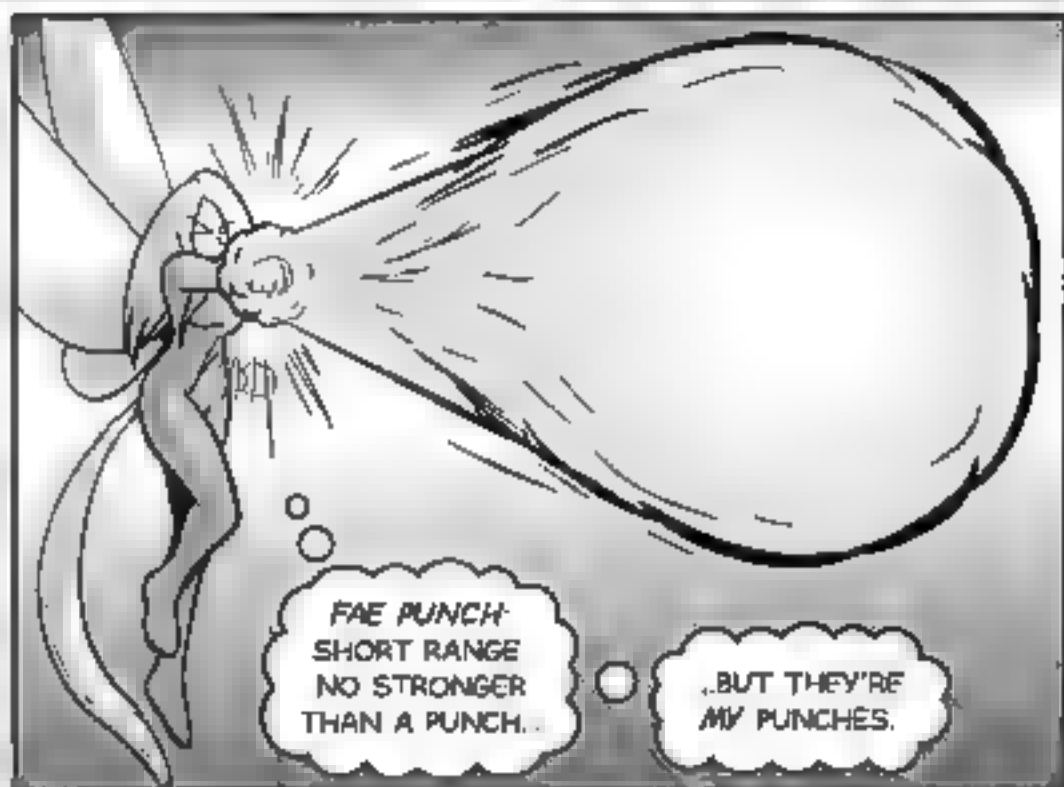
WHAT AM  
I SUPPOSED  
TO DO?!



TIME TO WAKE  
UP MASTER

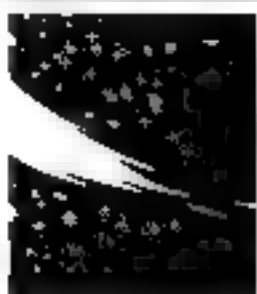










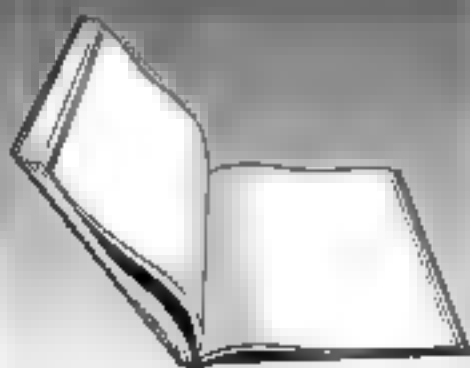


WITH EACH  
SPELL CAST, A CHANCE  
FOR NEW POWER.

SPELLS THAT  
REFLECT WHO  
YOU ARE...

WHAT  
MOTIVATES  
YOU...

AND THE  
SACRIFICES YOU  
HAVE MADE.



IF YOU WEREN'T...



YOU ARE  
WILLING TO DIE  
FOR HER.

...YOU WOULD  
NEVER HAVE EARNED  
THIS SPELL.



TRY NOT  
TO DIE TOO  
QUICKLY.

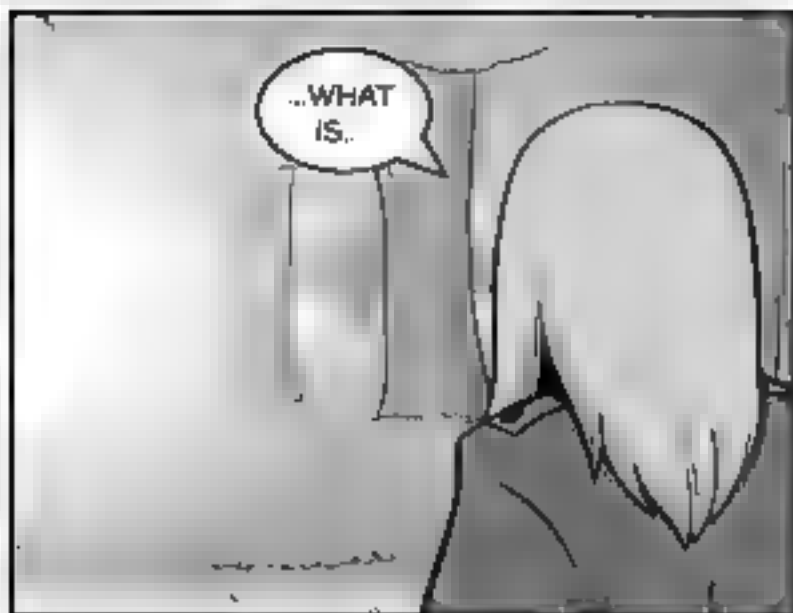


IS THAT...

IS  
THAT ALL OF  
THEM?



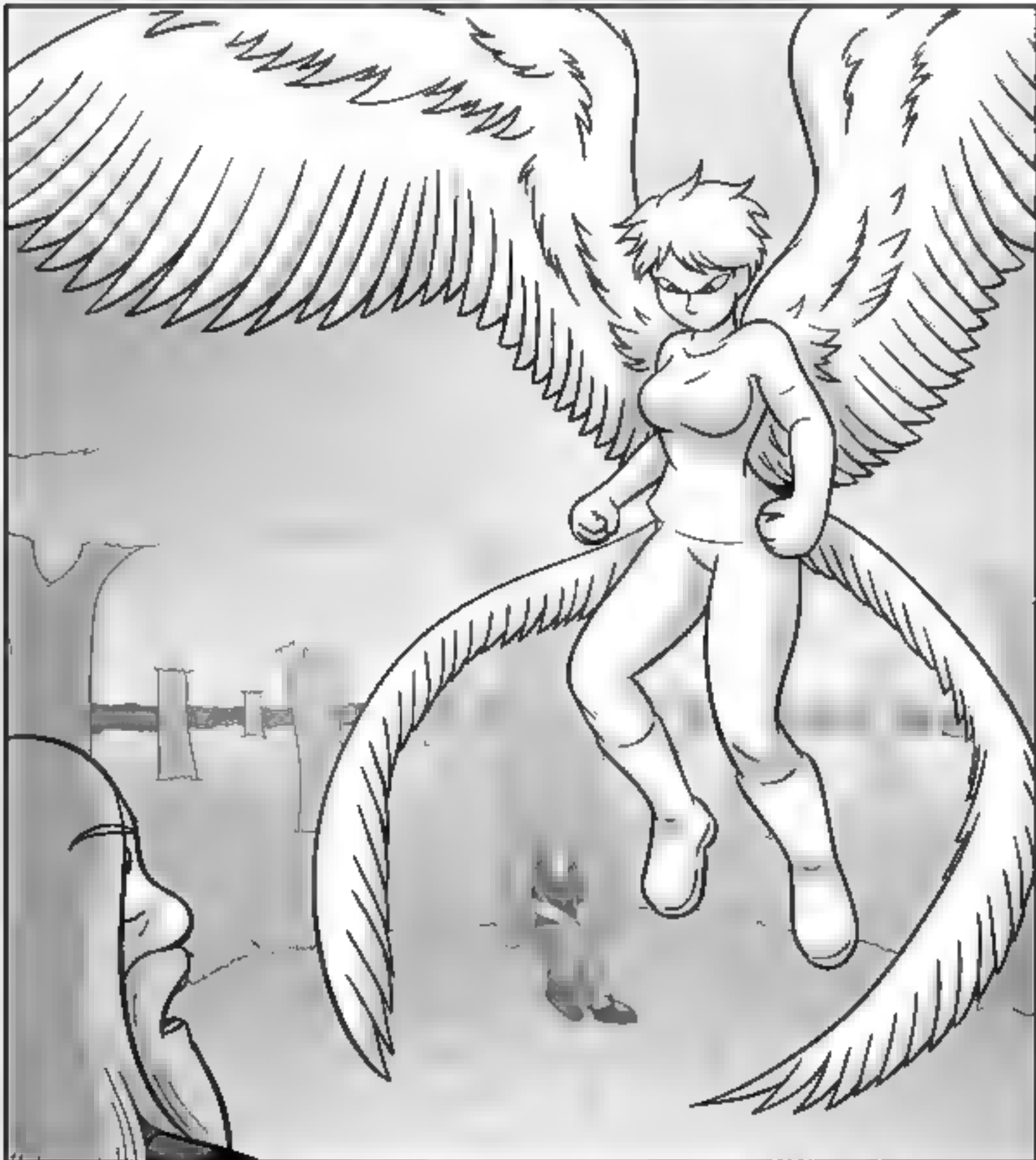
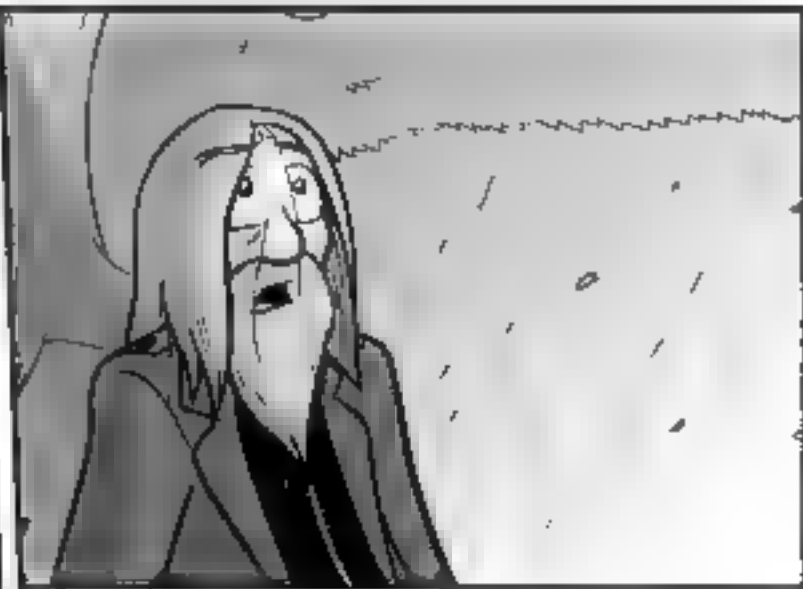
OUT OF DOLLS, ELF?!



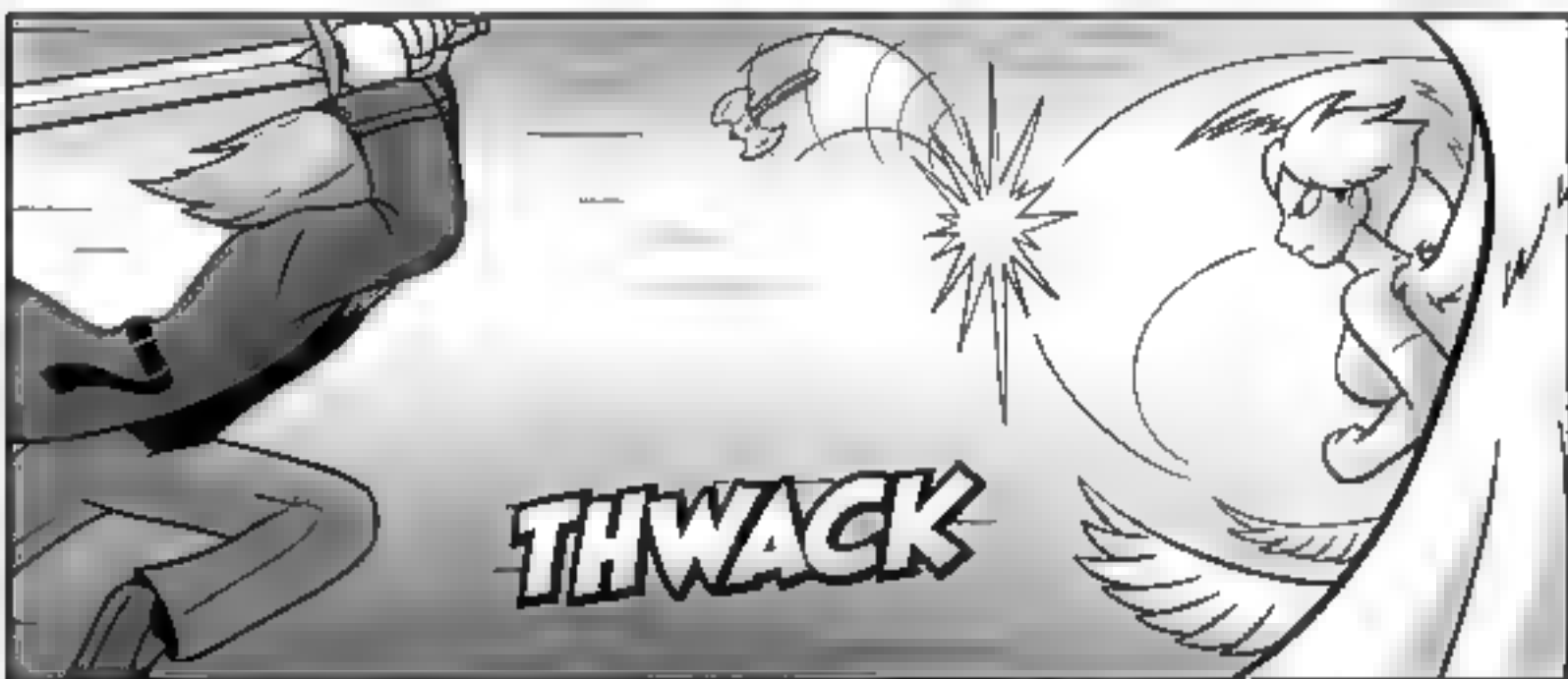
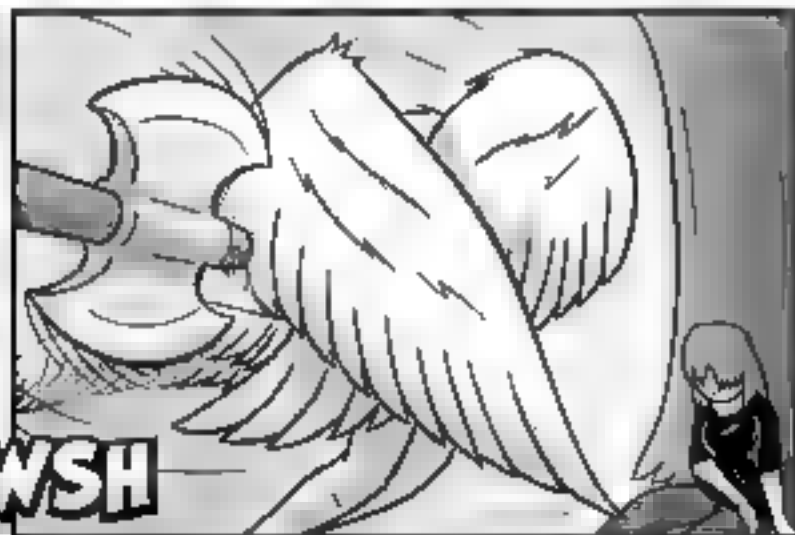
...WHAT  
IS...



**THWACK**









THE GIRL YOU WANT TO KILL! HER NAME IS ELLEN. SHE HAS FRIENDS AND A FAMILY! HER FAVORITE ANIMALS ARE CATS! SHE LIKES BOARD GAMES, MARTIAL ARTS AND HELPING OTHERS!







I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INTERVENTION. BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY I NO LONGER HAVE ANY INTENTION OF HARMING YOUR



--FRIEND?



MAYBE. MAYBE NOT NOT GONNA GAMBLE ON IT

YOU INTEND TO KILL ME?

IF I DID... YOU'D BE DEAD... IT WON'T TAKE THEM LONG NOW..

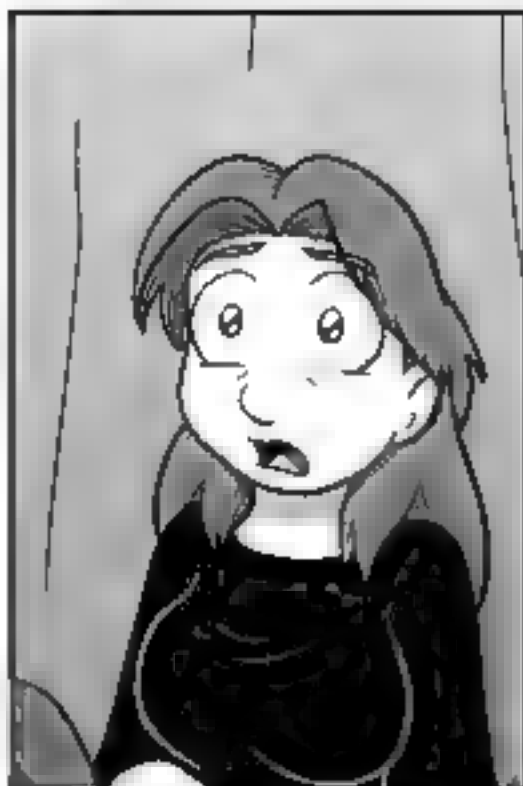


WON'T TAKE WHO LONG FOR WHAT?

FBI! STAY WHERE YOU ARE! I'M AGENT CRANIUM. AND THIS IS MY BOYFR--PARTNER AGENT WOLF!

WIZARD, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR TRESPASSING. ASSAULT, K.DNAPPING. AND A WHOLE MESS OF OTHER STUFF!











EDWARD...

I WILL DETAIN HIM  
UNTIL MORE AGENTS ARRIVE  
NOW GO! BREAK WHATEVER  
PROTOCOLS YOU HAVE TO,  
JUST KEEP HER ALIVE!



...COME ON.  
LET'S GO.

DAMMIT, VERRER.  
YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF  
ALL THEY DO IS FIRE  
YOU AFTER THAT.



WELL,  
I FEEL  
USELESS.

ELLEN IS  
SAFE, AND  
THAT 'IDIOT  
WIZARD' IS  
OUT COLD.

I GUESS CHAOS  
WAS WRONG ABOUT  
NEEDING ME HERE



DON'T BE A FOOL, -  
MAGUS. NOW IS *PRECISELY*  
WHEN YOU ARE NEEDED.

CHAOS?



VERRER IS FURIOUS, AND IT'S  
ABOUT TO GET WORSE, BUT  
HE WILL STILL HAVE ENOUGH  
SELF CONTROL LEFT TO NOT  
MURDER AN UNCONSCIOUS MAN.



TAKE THAT FROM HIM.



AMPLIFY HIS RAGE UNTIL  
IT CANNOT BE CONTAINED.



MAKE HIM  
KILL THE  
WIZARD.

WHAT? THAT'S NOT YOU SAID ELLEN WOULD DIE IF I DIDN'T STAY WITH HER!

INDEED. IF YOU HAD LEFT, I WOULD NOT HAVE ARRANGED FOR HER RESCUE. NOW DO IT.

YOU. BUT WHY KILL HIM?

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THE DIAMOND IS PART OF  
YOUR FUTURE REVIVAL. IF HE LIVES,  
HE WILL BE AN ADVERSARY.

ALSO?  
HE MIGHT MY  
SON.

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YOUR FUTURE REVIVAL. IF HE LIVES,  
HE WILL BE AN ADVERSARY.

ALSO?  
HE MIGHT MY  
SON.

YOUR SON? RAVEN?!

SHUT UP  
AND DO IT.

ALL THIS FORESIGHT.  
COULDN'T YOU HAVE PREVENTED  
ALL OF THIS? RAVEN--YOUR SON,  
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE--

YOUR SON? RAVEN?!

SHUT UP  
AND DO IT.

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COULDN'T YOU HAVE PREVENTED  
ALL OF THIS? RAVEN--YOUR SON,  
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE--

**SOME LESSONS ARE HARSH!**  
 NOW LISTEN TO ME. YOU CAN  
 BARELY AFFECT VERRES, AMPLIFY  
 HIS RAGE, NOW!

NO! I  
 WON'T

DO IT, OR YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.  
 YOU WILL BE ALONE AND I WILL  
 NEVER HELP YOU AGAIN.

**SOME LESSONS ARE HARSH!**  
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 NEVER HELP YOU AGAIN.





YOU'VE ASKED MANY TIMES WHAT MY NAME IS.  
I HAVE HAD MANY, BUT I WILL GIVE YOU THE  
FULL NAME I HAVE CHOSEN FOR MYSELF.



PANDORA- CHAOS- RAVEN.



REFER TO ME AS ONE OR AS ALL,  
I WILL LIVE UP TO THE NAME.

PONDER THAT IN YOUR  
NEWFOUND ISOLATION.



CRAZY  
BITCH..

LATER, AT THE NEAREST HOSPITAL...

YOU REALLY  
HAD NO IDEA  
WHAT WAS  
GOING ON?



THE LAST THING  
I REMEMBER BEFORE  
WAKING UP IN THE  
FOREST IS PASSING  
OUT IN THE HALLWAY

I HAD NO IDEA  
SOMEONE WAS OUT  
TO KILL ME. OR THAT  
NANASE WAS FIGHTING  
SO HARD FOR ME...



SHE REALLY IS  
GOING TO BE OKAY,  
RIGHT? YOU'RE NOT  
JUST HUMORING ME?



I'LL BE FINE  
JUST NEED REST...

NANASE!

HOW DO  
YOU FEEL?



LIKE I JUST FINISHED  
A COUPLE TRIATHLONS.

NANASE I... I  
CAN'T THANK YOU  
ENOUGH, I...

DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
IT



I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING. AND YOU RISKED YOUR  
LIFE FOR ME. NOW YOU'RE IN THE  
HOSPITAL, AND YOUR HAIR'S BLACK--

MY HAIR'S  
WHAT  
NOW?

YOUR HAIR HAS  
TURNED BLACK. IT'S  
TO BE EXPECTED;  
THAT ANGEL SPELL  
WOULD HAVE  
BURNED OUT EVEN  
MORE EXPERIENCED  
USERS.

"BURNED  
OUT"?



IT MEANS YOU'VE TEMPORARILY  
LOST ACCESS TO YOUR MAGIC  
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THERE ARE  
USUALLY PHYSICAL SIDE EFFECTS,  
MOST COMMONLY HAVING TO DO  
WITH HAIR OR EYE COLOR.



IT'S HAPPENED ENOUGH THAT WE'VE  
ARRANGED FOR SUDDEN HAIR OR  
EYE COLOR CHANGES TO BE LISTED  
AS AN ACTUAL MEDICAL CONDITION.

SO, WAIT  
OFFICIALLY, HAIR  
DOES SPONTANEOUSLY  
CHANGE COLOR?

YES.

LOVELY



SO TEMPORARILY SHE'LL HAVE HER MAGIC BACK IN A DAY OR TWO, RIGHT?



THAT'S NOT LIKELY UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS. THAT WOULD BE TRUE BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES... I'M SORRY NANASE, IT COULD BE MONTHS BEFORE YOU CAN USE MAGIC AGAIN.

MONTHS?!

BUT... YOU.

SMALL PRICE TO PAY

YOU'RE ALIVE THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.



I... YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT TO SAY, BUT I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO SAY IT IN PUBLIC.

I LOVE YOU TOO ELLEN.



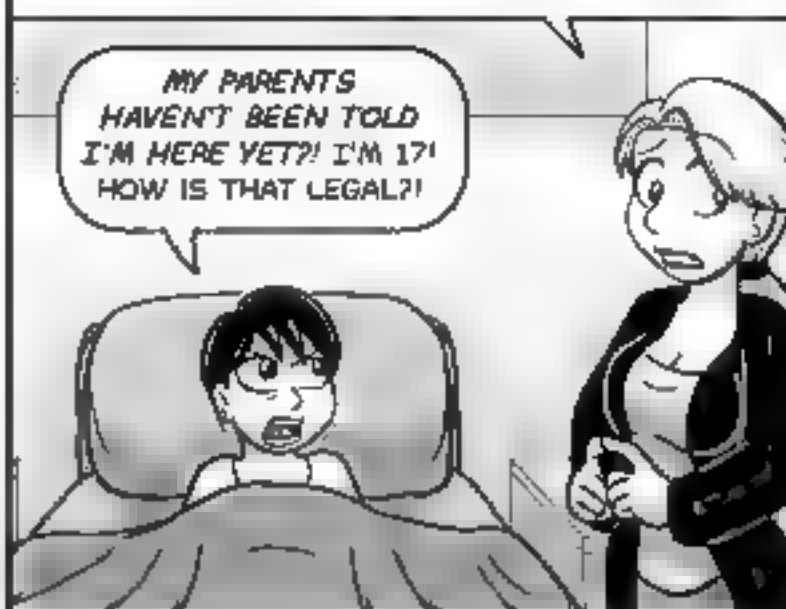
YOU DO? I MEAN, I KNOW YOU DO, BUT...



WE BOTH ALMOST DIED TODAY WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE. I DON'T WANT MY LIFE TO END HAVING LIVED A LIE.

I SUPPOSE THIS MIGHT BE A BAD TIME TO POINT OUT THAT WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE HORRIBLE WEB OF LIES WE'RE GIVING THE MEDIA AND YOUR PARENTS WHEN WE TELL THEM YOU'RE HERE.

MY PARENTS HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD I'M HERE YET?! I'M 17! HOW IS THAT LEGAL?!



THESE ARE EXTREME AND DELICATE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT WE KEEP THE TRUTH FROM EVERYONE EVEN YOUR FAMILY

NO I AM DONE LYING TO MY FAMILY THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH.





NANASE LISTEN TO ME. TELLING YOUR PARENTS ABOUT MAGIC WILL ONLY SCARE AND CONFUSE THEM. ESPECIALLY RIGHT NOW

WE HAVE A COVER STORY WITH AN INTENTIONALLY SET GAS LEAK AND A CRAZED STALKER FROM ELLEN'S VAGUE PAST ALL READY TO GO

IN OUR VERSION HIS LEFT HAND IS A HOOK.



A CRAZED STALKER AND A GAS LEAK? THAT'S NOT GOING TO SCARE MY PARENTS?!



OF COURSE IT IS, BUT IT'S SOMETHING THEY CAN ACTUALLY BELIEVE IF YOU TELL THEM ABOUT MAGIC. THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE DELUSIONAL, AND WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO USE YOUR MAGIC, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PROVE IT

I CAN PROVE MAGIC EXISTS FOR HER!



YES. AND THEN THEY'LL BE TERRIFIED OF YOU AND CONCLUDE THAT YOU'RE CORRUPTING HER AND THAT NANASE'S DELUSIONS ABOUT HER OWN POWERS ARE YOUR FAULT. I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN.

I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO MY FAMILY ABOUT THIS.



SOMEDAY AFTER YOU GET YOUR MAGIC BACK. IF YOU STILL WANT TO TELL THEM, WE CAN'T STOP YOU BUT FOR NOW...

..FOR NOW DO THEM, ELLEN AND YOURSELF A FAVOR BY HIDING THE TRUTH



ELSEWHERE. A LITTLE WHILE LATER...

SHE'S AGREED TO NOT TELL THE TRUTH.

GOOD.

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT? SHE DESPERATELY SEEMS TO WANT TO SHARE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.



THE LESS SHE KNOWS ABOUT WHAT I KNOW, THE BETTER



KRAK-A-THOOM



MEANWHILE, AT ANOTHER HOSPITAL...

YOU NEEDN'T WASTE  
YOUR TIME WITH ME.  
ALL I SHOULD NEED  
IS SOME REST.

NOW NOW, MR. RAVEN. I KNOW YOU JUST THINK OF ME  
AS A LOWLY INTERN WITH A *REMARKABLE* RESEMBLANCE  
TO ZACH BRAFF, BUT I *DO* KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT  
MEDICINE AND YOU  
ARE LUCKY TO  
BE ALIVE.

I CAN ONLY  
*IMAGINE* HOW  
YOU SURVIVED  
BEING BLOWN  
OUT OF A  
BUILDING.

MONKEYS  
MAKE THE BEST  
ACROBATS.

SPECIAL AGENT WOLF, FBI.  
OUT OF THE ROOM, NEWBIE.  
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH THIS  
PATIENT. *PRIVATELY*.

I, UH,  
WAS JUST  
ON MY WAY  
OUT...

AN IMMORTAL WHOSE MAGIC POWER CANNOT BE  
SENSED WHO WISHES TO TRICK SOMEONE WHO  
CAN SENSE MAGICAL POTENCY WOULD BE WISE  
TO NOT DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS ONE OF THE  
*MOST POWERFUL WIZARDS IN THE MID-  
WESTERN UNITED STATES.*

BESIDES WHICH, I'VE ALREADY  
SPOKEN WITH AGENT WOLF.

IF I HAD WANTED TO FOOL YOU, ADRIAN, I WOULD HAVE DISGUISED MYSELF AS A DOCTOR WHO IDOLIZES ANOTHER MEDICAL SHOW.



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOVELY OPPORTUNITY TO HIT THAT INTERN WITH A CANE.

ADRIAN... MOTHER?

HELLO, SON. I TRUST YOU'RE HEALING WELL?



WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN FOURTEEN YEARS, AND YOU JUST HAPPEN TO KNOW I'M HERE? YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THE INCIDENT TODAY, WEREN'T YOU?



I SAVED YOUR STUDENTS, BUT AS I PREDICTED, I COULDN'T GET ANYONE TO KILL THE KIDNAPPER. I ADMIT TO THROWING A BIT OF A TANTRUM ABOUT IT.



...YOU KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN AHEAD OF TIME, DIDN'T YOU? YOU DIDN'T WARN ME, YOU DIDN'T WARN VERRÉS... YOU LET IT HAPPEN.



OF COURSE I DID. YOU'VE WANTED TO FIGHT AND KILL FOR CENTURIES. I SAW IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH YOU A LESSON ABOUT YOUR OWN MORTALITY.



I KNOW I RISK DEATH BY FIGHTING, AND MY DESIRE TO FIGHT HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT KILLING. IT'S ABOUT PROTECTING PEOPLE AND SERVING MY COUNTRY.



AND WHICH COUNTRY WOULD THAT BE? THE UNITED STATES? ENGLAND? FRANCE? GERMANY?



YOU HAVE NO COUNTRY, AND PUTTING YOUR LIFE AT RISK FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL ULTIMATELY WITHER AND DIE IS INSANITY.

INSANITY IS RISKING THE LIVES OF TEENAGERS TO TEACH ME A LESSON I DON'T NEED!



...SO YOU'VE LEARNED  
**NOTHING**. YOU'RE STILL  
WILLING TO RISK LIFE AND LIMB  
TO "MAKE A DIFFERENCE".



I'M A PART OF THIS WORLD.  
I MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO  
DO MUCH WITHOUT CAUSING  
PROBLEMS, BUT I DO WHAT  
I CAN.



VERY WELL YOU WANT TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE? YOU  
WANT A WORLD YOU CAN  
FREELY PARTICIPATE IN?



I WILL  
GIVE IT TO  
YOU.



YOU... WHAT?



I WILL DESTROY THE WORLD AS IT IS NOW  
KNOWN AND REPLACE IT WITH ANOTHER.



A WORLD WHERE YOUR RESTRAINTS WILL MEAN  
NOTHING, AND YOU CAN DO AS YOU PLEASE.

WAIT! MOTHER, WHAT  
ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!



GOOD-  
BYE.



MOTHER!

THIS  
WON'T END  
WELL.





AS FOR THE REAL AGENT WOLF, HIS IDENTITY WAS, IRONICALLY, BEING CHECKED...

I'M HERE TO SEE THE WIZARD.

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ?

KNOCK IT OFF. I NEED TO PROPERLY INTERROGATE HIM NOW THAT HIS DAMN CHEST WOUND'S BEEN TENDED TO.

YES, WELL, I'M AFRAID THERE'S A BIT OF A STICKY WICKET.

DON'T TELL ME HE'S ESCAPED.

STONED?!

OH, NO, SIR, NOTHING OF THE SORT. IT'S JUST THAT HE'S A BIT... STONED AT THE MOMENT.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

I THOUGHT HE WAS SEARCHED! WHAT, DOES HE HAVE A "SUMMON POT" SPELL?!

OH.

"STONED."

I RISE ONLY TO ATONE FOR MY SINS

HOW THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET HIM OUT OF THAT CELL?